

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Previously presented): A process for preparing an aqueous polyurethane dispersion, comprising:

preparing a polyurethane by reacting at least one polyfunctional isocyanate having 4 to 30 carbon atoms with at least one diol in the presence of N-ethylpyrrolidone or N-cyclohexylpyrrolidone; and

dispersing the prepared polyurethane in an aqueous medium,

wherein

the polyurethane comprises at least one component having at least one hydrophilic group or a group which can be converted to a hydrophilic group, and is dispersible in water.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The process according to claim 15, wherein the preparing a polyurethane in the presence of N-ethylpyrrolidone or N-cyclohexylpyrrolidone comprises reacting

- a) the at least one polyfunctional isocyanate having 4 to 30 carbon atoms,  
with
- b) diols comprising
  - b1) 10 to 100 mol%, based on the total amount of diols (b),  
having a molecular weight of from 500 to 5000 and
  - b2) 0 to 90 mol%, based on the total amount of diols (b),  
having a molecular weight of from 60 to 500 g/mol,

- c) optionally additional polyfunctional compounds, other than the diols (b), containing reactive groups which are alcoholic hydroxyl groups or primary or secondary amino groups and
- d) monomers other than the monomers a), b) and c), containing at least one isocyanate group or at least one isocyanato-reactive group, additionally carrying at least one hydrophilic group or a group which can be converted to a hydrophilic group.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The process according to claim 16, wherein component d) is at least one hydroxycarboxylic acid.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The process according to claim 17, wherein the at least one hydroxycarboxylic acid is a dihydroxyalkylcarboxylic acid.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): The process according to claim 17, wherein the at least one hydroxycarboxylic acid is an  $\alpha,\alpha$ -bis(hydroxymethyl)-carboxylic acid.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The process according to claim 17, wherein the at least one hydroxycarboxylic acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of dimethylolbutyric acid and dimethylolpropionic acid.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The process according to claim 20, wherein the at least one hydroxycarboxylic acid is dimethylolpropionic acid.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): The process according to claim 16, wherein the hydrophilic group of components d) comprises nonionic and ionic groups.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The process according to claim 15, wherein the polyurethane is prepared in the presence of at least one cesium salt.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): A method for coating or adhesively bonding a material, comprising applying the aqueous polyurethane dispersion prepared according to Claim 15 to the material,

wherein the material is at least one selected from the group consisting of wood, wood veneer, paper, paperboard, cardboard, textile, leather, nonwoven, plastics surfaces, glass, ceramic, mineral building materials, uncoated metals and coated metals.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): A method for preparing an aqueous dispersion of a water dispersible polyurethane comprising adding N-ethylpyrrolidone or N-cyclohexylpyrrolidone to a reaction of a polyisocyanate and a diol, for forming the water dispersible polyurethanes.